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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PORT AU PRINCE 000037

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STATE FOR WHA/CAR  
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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR LAC/CAR  
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)  
WHA/EX PLEASE PASS USOAS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/10/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [KPKO](#) [HA](#) [CH](#)  
SUBJECT: GOH OFFICIALS: DO NOT WORRY ABOUT MANDATE RENEWAL;  
MINUSTAH IS IMPORTANT TO US AS WELL

REF: A. STATE 2540  
[1](#)B. 06 PORT AU PRINCE 2247  
[1](#)C. 06 PORT AU PRINCE 2459  
[1](#)D. 06 PORT AU PRINCE 2472

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Classified By: Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Ambassador met with Foreign Minister Jean Raynald Clerisme January 9 (the day President Rene Preval departed for Nicaragua) to discuss the Haiti/Taiwan/China issue, which threatens to affect the renewal of MINUSTAH's UNSC mandate in February. Citing her previous conversations with Chinese and Haitian government officials (ref A), she stressed the importance of MINUSTAH in Haiti's political and economic future. Security is key to anything the Haitians wish to do, and without MINUSTAH, that security is seriously in jeopardy. FM Clerisme told the Ambassador not to worry. Per his contacts in New York and representatives from the Chinese commercial office in Port-au-Prince, everything would be fine. He said that he advised President Preval to keep a low profile in Nicaragua and to be discreet ("the key word, the president's word") about Haiti's relationship with Taiwan in general.

[1](#)2. (C) FM Clerisme said that five other Caribbean nations recognize Taiwan. The Ambassador reminded him, however, that of the five, only Haiti has a UN-mandated peace-keeping force. He also told the Ambassador that recent MINUSTAH actions have been remarkable (ref A and B) and that Haitians need to realize the important role MINUSTAH plays in Haiti's security. To assuage the Ambassador's concern, Clerisme told her that the Chinese message is clear and that it resonates with the GoH. The Ambassador shared her impression that some Haitian officials seemed to think that the U.S. will "fix" this problem but that, absent a concrete gesture from the government, it would be hard for any of Haiti's friends to be helpful. FM Clerisme again stressed that the GoH knew what it was doing, and that the Ambassador should not be worried.

[1](#)3. (C) Subsequent to this conversation, Ambassador called on the Presidency's Secretary General Fritiz Longchamps.

(Note. Longchamps, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, has a demonstrably more sophisticated view of Haiti's foreign policy and its international relations than the incumbent. End note.) He stressed that Preval fully understands that MINUSTAH is essential to Haiti's future, to the point that the president praised it in his latest speech before Parliament. Haiti has no ability as of yet to protect itself, Longchamps averred, quoting the president, and MINUSTAH, at this point at least, is irreplaceable. Longchamps assured the Ambassador that Preval, although "no diplomat", recognizes the need to deal with the situation and "find some way" to address China's concerns when he returns from Ortega's inauguration. Longchamps did agree with the Ambassador's statement that it is indeed time to exercise discretion on this matter.

14. (C) That being said, Longchamps opined that Beijing had badly overreacted to what was really a technical discussion in the First Committee and not a policy issue. Haiti highly valued its relationship with Beijing -- as it does with Taiwan. In its effort to resolve this matter, however, Haiti will not be dictated to. Longchamps said that Beijing's representative here had even demanded that Preval snub Taiwanese president Chen, who will attend the Ortega inauguration. This is, Longchamps stressed, a country with whom Haiti has diplomatic relations. You can not expect that Haiti's president will turn his back on a fellow leader, he observed and he rhetorically asked why Beijing would push on this point.

15. (C) Comment. Dealing with Haiti's "China problem" has become almost a full time job here. Certainly it consumes our UN counterparts. UNSRSG Mulet is convinced that China will indeed veto the MINUSTAH mandate renewal "without a qualm" if Preval does not sign a formal letter of apology. He flits from one Haitian official to the next in attempt to

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impress upon Preval the importance of the matter. Mulet has a meeting with Preval's fiancée/counselor Elizabeth Delatour today to discuss the matter but sees little give on the issue. Preval seems, in Mulet's view, to be dismissive of his concerns about China, to the extent that Preval attempted to bring the Taiwanese Ambassador along on a MINUSTAH helicopter ferrying the president to his national day celebrations.

16. (C) Comment continued. Although he has agreed to meet the Ambassador to discuss China on Thursday, Preval's staff has let it be known that the president is finding the subject increasingly tedious. Our Brazilian counterparts (who have also demarched senior GOH officials on the issue) report that the Cuban ambassador, who accompanied Preval to Cuba for his medical test last week, told them that he spent the plane ride back trying to persuade Preval to meet the Chinese demands. The President's reaction, according to the report, "it's not our problem."

SANDERSON